

Mayor Coleman's Second Shift Initiative

Ready for School, Ready for Life

Education is core to the quality of life in our great city. In Saint Paul we strive to ensure that learning opportunities are accessible for all and support young people's success in school and life. Mayor Chris Coleman called the City to action through the Second Shift Initiative. This refers to the time young people spend out of school; the non-school hours including after school and summer hours. Young people spend 20% of their time in school and 80% in the out-of-school time. Focusing on the opportunities available to youth during the "Second Shift" is critical to closing opportunity gaps and ensuring all young people have opportunities to succeed.

To increase access to effective out-of-school learning while creating a bridge to in-school learning, the Second Shift Initiative is convening partners to create a city-wide comprehensive learning system. We work with our libraries; park and recreation centers; world class public, private and charter schools; premier colleges and universities; and a network of community-based and non-profit organizations.

The Second Shift Initiative is charged to create a city-wide comprehensive learning system by:

- Building public will
- Effecting policy change through advocacy
- Reducing the achievement and opportunities gap
- Promoting creative partnerships
- Addressing barriers to access
- Assessing, leveraging and maximizing local resources and assets

The City of Saint Paul is a national demonstration city for A New Day for Learning and is inspired by the like-named report by the Time, Learning and Afterschool Taskforce commissioned by the C.S. Mott Foundation. The report states that the, "nation's steady progress as an economy and as a society will end unless we....design a comprehensive learning system throughout the day, early to late, and year round so that young people have a seamless learning experience....with multiple ways of learning, anchored to high standards and aligned to educational resources throughout a community.¹"

A partnership with the City, Saint Paul Public Schools and community-based organizations and non-profits will:

Define a vision of youth success in the 21st Century that guides development of a learning campus model.

• The Second Shift Commission engaged over 350 parents, youth, teachers, business leaders, and youth workers to develop Saint Paul's Framework for Youth Success. The framework combines local values with research to define the competencies youth need to be successful in the 21st century. This expanded definition will guide learning opportunities in learning campuses. Each neighborhood in Saint Paul will be in one of six geographic learning campuses which serve as a clear structure for youth and parents to access learning, for organizations to partner and coordinate together and to ensure equitable access to learning across the city

Create a web-based interactive site so youth and families can access learning opportunities.

• Link Up Saint Paul launched on August 11th 2010 and can be found at www.linkupsaintpaul.org. Link Up Saint Paul is a searchable website of out-of-school-time program information so that families, youth and practitioners can connect find learning opportunities in Saint Paul.

Align evaluation and data systems:

A city-wide out-of-school-time data system will help us understand the relationship between in-school and out-of-school-time learning, inform gaps and needs analysis and provide community-level data about the level of participation across the city. This will ensure learning opportunities are organized and supported to maximize impact as defined by Saint Paul's Framework for Youth Success.

Promote quality youth work practice and enhance professional development opportunities:

• A Framework for Quality Out-of-School-Time Practice will be developed and guide professional development and organizational capacity building efforts. Professional development offered across learning campuses will be designed to 1) engage licensed school teachers and youth workers in reciprocal learning and teaching, 2) identify how out-of-school-time learning opportunities can integrate academic content, and 3) build the skills of practitioners.

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¹ Time, Learning and Afterschool Task Force. Executive Summary: New Day for Learning. January 2007.